



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 5

Meeting Date: March 31, 2006

Meeting Location: Tippecanoe County Office
Department of Child Services
111 N. 4th Street
Lafayette, IN 47901

Council Members Present: Gilbert Smith, Regional Manager; Judge John Rader, Warren County; Deann Beery, Foster Parent; Elva James, Director Benton County DCS; Judge Susan Orr Henderson, Fountain County; Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor, Fountain County DCS, and Barbara Bedrick, Director White County DCS.

Council Members Absent: Janis Mullen, Director Carroll and Clinton County DCS; April Pries, FCM, Clinton County; and Coleen Hamrick, CASA Director, Tippecanoe County

Others In Attendance: Angela Smith Grossman, Director Tippecanoe County DCS; Linda Akers, Director Warren County DCS; Kathy Shank, FCM Supervisor, Carroll County; Sandra Lock, FCM Supervisor, Clinton County; Autumn Badger, FCM Warren County; Kim Lahman, Director of Business Development, Midwest Center, Kouts, IN; Jackie Agee, Regional Supervisor, Whites Residential and Family Services, Merrillville, IN; Kimberly Norwood, FCM White County; Debbie Brenneman, Foster Parent; and Linda Poland, Family Services, Lafayette.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 8:30 am

1. Introductions
2. Gil Smith began the meeting by reading a letter from Judge Payne thanking the Department of Child Services Team for a job well done during this time of change and forward progress. A copy of Judge Payne's letter was handed out to all attendees.
3. In honor of National Social Worker month the Family Case Managers and Family Case Manager Supervisors from each county with the most tenure were recognized and awarded certificates. In Region 5 these workers were:

Kathy Shank, FCM Supervisor, Carroll County, 34 years
Sandy Lock, FCM Supervisor, Clinton County, 20 years
Cathy Booe, FCM Supervisor, Fountain County, 23 years
Iona LaBaw, FCM, Tippecanoe County, 20 years
Autumn Badger, FCM, Warren County, 2 years
Kimberly Norwood, FCM, White County, 14 years

DCS- How are the Children lanyards were distributed to all attendees.

4. A handout for the Region 8 Community Fair was distributed and discussed for ideas for a fair in Region 5. Some thoughts and suggestions were:
 - a. Have one session with everyone together and then have break out sessions.
 - b. A training session with law enforcement on investigating drug homes, including other drugs as well as meth.
 - c. The more specific the better. General information would not be that helpful.
 - d. Possibly holding the fair at Ivy Tech.

Gil will ask Stacy Lozer to come and help get things started, line up a site, help with brochures, RSVPs, etc.

The Community Fair has been approved for continuing education.

5. Child Welfare Service Dollars – Gil distributed a handout of Child Welfare services expenditures by county. In order to fully utilize the available funding counties must know all the programs and resources available to them. It was brought to attention that 2004 was not a good year to look at as an example of budgets approved and dollars expended. In 2004 there were budgeting issues and a lot of counties were afraid to spend the money they had.

Each Director needs to give Gil their 2006 plan for what they will spend.

6. Elva James brought two programs to bring before the Council
 - a. Benton County Spring Fair – In the past this has been funded by other groups. Information is presented on medical and drug related topics and 400 + people attend. First Steps organizes it and it is usually held on a Saturday in May at Benton Central School. Elva is asking for \$1288.00 to pay for tables, chairs and materials. While it was mentioned that the school should have tables and chairs, Elva said this money fills in the gaps. Motion was made and seconded and to approve.
 - b. PSP – Preventative Self-sufficiency Program was funded by the school corporation but has lost that funding. In this program an RN goes to the schools and works with students on things from drugs and alcohol to pregnancy prevention to pre-natal care and goal setting

once a girl is already pregnant. The RN is careful that the school doesn't see it as talking about birth control but as a counseling service. She goes to the middle school as well as the high school. This program has been in place for at least five years. Elva has asked for \$15,000. Motion made and seconded to approve.

7. Heartford House in Tippecanoe County specializes in forensic interviews, largely of victims of sexual abuse. They have a trained team of interviewers. The building looks like a house and the interview room has a couple of chairs, candles, etc. so the child is comfortable. Only one interviewer is in the room with the child. The rest of the interview team is watching from the basement and can tell the interviewer to ask certain questions. The cost of training is \$500 per interviewer. The Regional Services Council will think about ways to get funding to be able to expand this service to other counties.
8. Community Partners' for Child Safety – we will become more comfortable with this as it gets more developed. We are beginning to work with both of our Partners' for Community Safety to develop that opportunity.
9. Cindy Mason was unable to attend this meeting so Judge Henderson gave a brief overview of Fountain County's mentoring program. It is a part time program with a part time director. The director has been working on grant writing to get grants in order to get away from asking for money from DCS. They are very excited about this program that is modeled after Montgomery County's Home Team Advantage program as an alternative to out of home placement. Mentors and kids do activities as a group as well as individually. The mentors are trained and they are in need of male mentors. This program has the potential to become a for profit business.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: Friday, April 28, 2006 at 8:30 am in the third floor conference room of the Tippecanoe County Department of Child Services, 111 N. 4th Street, Lafayette, IN.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:50 am.